

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

An Abstract is included with this Office Action on a separate sheet. The Abstract is limited to less than 150 words and is narrative in form as required by the Examiner.

Please replace the paragraph on page 13, beginning on line 5, with the following replacement paragraph.

Fig. 10a-10d various stages while operating with the apparatus of Fig. 8

Please replace the paragraph on pages 19 and 20, beginning on page 19, line 17, with the following replacement paragraph.

In comparison to the embodiment of Fig. 1 only the form of the levers 22' and in the die 15 has basically changed. The lever 22' has, now as previously, a short limb 23 with a top side 33 and an end face 25, with the end face 25 forming the movable undercut regions. The short limb 23 is also connected to a long limb 24. This limb 24 however has an outer side 27' which one can compare with the shoulder 27 in the lever of Fig. 1 which in the section of Fig. 8 forms a straight line. In cross-section it can naturally also be semi-circularly rounded as can be recognized in Fig. 9. This outer side 27' does not extend parallel to the pressing direction 14, but is rather inclined to it and thus includes an acute angle with the pressing direction 14, with the corresponding wall 34 of the die being so directed that the corresponding recess bounded by the wall 34 opens radially upwardly, i.e., towards the plunger 9. Accordingly, the lever 22' is moved radially outwardly when it is lifted. This movement is restricted by a ring 35 which is arranged beneath the projection and which is contacted by a lever projection 36 at the lower end of the lever 22' when the lever 22' has been drawn out upwardly by a sufficient amount. This should be explained with reference to Fig. 10a-10d. Fig. 10A shows the situation which results when the auxiliary joining element 2 has been pressed into the work-piece 3 and the corresponding undercut regions 29 have

formed. The work-piece 3 presses in this arrangement onto the upper side 33 of the lever 22', so that the lever 22' is held fast in the die 15' and cannot deviate radially.